

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 12717 282340Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 NEA-11 NSAE-00  
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R 281812Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7553  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 12717

USEEC

E.O. 11652:  
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC  
SUBJ: UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (OVERVIEW COMMITTEE)

REF: STATE 161676

1. PER REFTEL PARA 10, MISSION OFFICERS SAW MANFRED CASPARI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, EXTERNAL RELATIONS, EC COMMISSION, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON US IDEAS FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW). A NON-PAPER BASED ON PARA 8 REFTEL WAS LEFT WITH CASPARI, WHO PROMISED TO TRANSMIT IT FOR FORMAL REVIEW TO THE JULY 4 COREPER HIGH OFFICIALS MEETING ON THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. PENDING A REACTION FROM THAT BODY, HE PROVIDED US WITH HIS INFORMAL, PERSONAL COMMENTS ON THE US IDEAS KEYED TO PARAGRAPH 8 AS FOLLOWS:

A. CASPARI SAID HE HAS PERSONAL DOUBTS ABOUT THE WORK-ABILITY OF THE IDEAS CONTAINED IN SUB-PARAGRAPH A,  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 12717 282340Z

POINTING OUT THAT WITH REGARD TO THE MAY SESSION OF THE COW HE COULD DISCERN NO TOPICS THAT LENT THEMSELVES TO THE TREATMENT PRESCRIBED. HE DOUBTED THAT THE US PROPOSAL WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WONDERED WHETHER, EVEN IF ONE COULD IDENTIFY SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS WHERE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE SINCE THE PRECEDING SESSION, THIS MIGHT NOT IMPLY TO THE G-77 A WILLINGNESS

TO NEGOTIATE ON THE ISSUES CONCERNED.

B. ON SUB-PARAGRAPH B, CASPARI WAS MORE FORTHCOMING AND STATED THAT THE EC COMMISSION WAS ALREADY STUDYING THE QUESTION OF "PREDICTABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE" ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY THE U.S. WHILE HE HAD NO DIFFICULTY ACCEPTING THE US SUGGESTION ON THIS POINT, HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY LEAD TO SPLITS WITHIN GROUP B IN THE FUTURE.

C. ON SUB-PARAGRAPH C, CASPARI WAS SYMPATHETIC BUT SAID THAT HIS PRELIMINARY REACTION IS THAT THE G-77 WOULD FIND THE PROPOSAL DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT.

D. CASPARI'S VIEW ON SUB-PARAGRAPH D IS THAT ADVANCE PREPARATION OF LENGTHY DOCUMENTS LEADING TO "NEGOTIATIONS" BY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES OR GROUPS IS TO BE AVOIDED BUT THAT "CONCEPTUAL" PAPERS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF GUIDING THE DISCUSSIONS, WOULD BE DESIRABLE. HE DID NOT QUESTION THE UTILITY OF A REPORT SUMMARIZING THE RANGE OF VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE MEETING AND THE DEGREE OF CONVERGENCE AMONG DISCUSSION PARTICIPANTS.

E. CONCERNING PARAGRAPH E, CASPARI AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND SUGGESTED THAT G-77 ACCEPTANCE OF THIS IDEA IS A PRE-CONDITION FOR A SUCCESSFUL WORK PROCESS IN THE COW.  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 12717 282340Z

2. COMMENT: WHILE CASPARI WAS CORDIAL AND FORTHCOMING IN GIVING HIS PERSONAL REACTION TO US IDEAS WITH REGARD TO THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE COW, HE LEFT US THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE PRISM THROUGH WHICH HE AND OTHERS IN THE EC COMMISSION VIEW THE WORK OF THE COW IS NOT A FAVORABLE ONE, I.E. THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT BE SORRY TO SEE THE OVERVIEW MECHANISM DIE A NATURAL DEATH IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014